

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Nonpoint source water pollution,” now more commonly called “polluted runoff,” is a term for all the materials originating from natural and human activity that are carried by rainwater from the land and the air into streams and oceans. Pollution of this type especially impacts the State of Hawaii and its citizens. Since the State’s longest stream, Kaukonahua, is only 33 miles in length and rain usually falls in torrential bursts, nature provides very little chance for this type of pollution to settle out before it impacts the surface and groundwater we drink and the streams and coastal waters in which we fish and play.

Hawaii’s Implementation Plan for Polluted Runoff Control is both a culmination of the planning that the State of Hawaii has done in past years for polluted runoff control and, at the same time, the first five-year plan for implementation of activities to be undertaken by State and county agencies, federal agencies, and Hawaii’s citizens to control polluted runoff. Polluted runoff is a major cause of water quality degradation nationwide: therefore, the activity in Hawaii is designed not only to respond to Hawaii’s problems but also to meet federal requirements.

This Plan:

1. Addresses the nine key elements required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for State nonpoint pollution control programs to be formally recognized by the EPA as Tier I Nonpoint Source States. Such recognition will allow the Department of Health’s (DOH) Polluted Runoff Control program (PRC) to receive priority for multi-year grant work plans, streamlined review of grants applications, increased technical assistance, reduced reporting requirements, and reduced oversight by the EPA;
2. Establishes long and short-term goals and activities to control nonpoint source pollution control in Hawaii as required for the implementation of *Hawaii’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program*, based on the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act of 1990 (CZARA) and conditionally approved by EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1998; and
3. Establishes 15-year strategies and 5-year implementation plans to prevent and reduce polluted runoff in six categories (agriculture, forestry, urban, marinas and recreational boating, hydromodification, and wetlands and riparian areas) and schedules to evaluate the effectiveness of these and other polluted runoff controls used in the State.

Chapter 1 of this report introduces the concept of polluted runoff and places it in the context of Hawaii’s geography. It describes the biennial assessments of Hawaii’s water quality and the meaning of Water Quality Limited Segments (WQLSs). The Chapter closes with a county-by-county description of the health of the watersheds draining into the WQLSs.

Chapter 2 describes the federal requirements and plans, State planning documents and activities, and the programs of the two State agencies (Department of Health, Environmental Management Division, Clean Water Branch, Polluted Runoff Control Program and Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program) charged with implementing polluted runoff control in Hawai`i. The Department of Health and the Office of Planning have established nonpoint source pollution control programs based on the management of principles of cooperation, coordination, communication, and holistic approaches. These derive from the Native Hawaiian ahupua`a approach to resource management. A description of federal programs for water quality carried

on in Hawai'i is followed by three long-term goals, the short-term activities needed to implement them by 2013, and measures of successes.

Chapter 3 identifies the statewide and watershed-based partnerships established to protect and enhance water quality. The State's policy is to engage the stakeholders and ensure the polluted runoff control provisions developed are effective and economically feasible. Both the Department of Health and the Office of Planning are continuously seeking cooperative arrangements and improved coordination among the participating agencies and stakeholders in the development of polluted runoff control measures and programs.

Chapter 4 details the statewide portion of the State's two-tiered approach to polluted runoff control management that is coordinated by the Department of Health and the Office of Planning. While the Department of Health and the Office of Planning were responsible for coordinating and integrating *Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Management Plan*, most of the implementation of the management measures is done by other agencies.

Chapter 5 covers the watershed approach portion of the State's two-tiered approach to nonpoint source pollution management. The key to the watershed approach is tailoring efforts of federal, state, and local governments, and the private and public sector to the particular needs of an individual watershed. The regional watershed approach further complements the State's current conditions from an environmental, economical and communal standpoint. A key component of the State's watershed approach is the Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA). The UWA, one of the programs arising from the federal Administration's *Clean Water Action Plan*, aims to provide a framework for federal, state, and tribal activities related to identifying and prioritizing watersheds in need of restoration.

Chapter 6 covers the progress the State has made in developing 5-year plans and 15-year strategies for the six nonpoint source categories identified in *Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Management Plan* - agriculture, forestry, urban areas, marinas and recreational boating, hydromodifications, and wetlands and riparian areas. *Hawaii's Implementation Plan for Polluted Runoff Control* will serve as a road map and guide Hawai'i to attain its three long-term goals by 2013. Following each five-year period, the State will evaluate its progress towards reaching the long-term goals and develop 5-year implementation plans to show how agencies and organizations are implementing the management measures. The State will base its 5-year evaluation on water quality monitoring data and information from the implementation of statewide and watershed based projects.

Six appendices provide a variety of background information, including summaries of documents on which the Plan is based.